**Cyrus Cylinder**

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לעילוי נשמת אברהם בן מנחם משה

**1. Divrei hayamim 2:36**

**יז** וַיַּעַל עֲלֵיהֶם אֶת-מֶלֶךְ (כַּשְׂדִּיים) [כַּשְׂדִּים] וַיַּהֲרֹג בַּחוּרֵיהֶם בַּחֶרֶב בְּבֵית מִקְדָּשָׁם וְלֹא חָמַל עַל-בָּחוּר וּבְתוּלָה זָקֵן וְיָשֵׁשׁ הַכֹּל נָתַן בְּיָדוֹ: **יח** וְכֹל כְּלֵי בֵּית הָאֱ-לֹהִים הַגְּדֹלִים וְהַקְּטַנִּים וְאֹצְרוֹת בֵּית ה’ וְאֹצְרוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ וְשָׂרָיו הַכֹּל הֵבִיא בָבֶל: **יט** וַיִּשְׂרְפוּ אֶת-בֵּית הָאֱ-לֹהִים וַיְנַתְּצוּ אֵת חוֹמַת יְרוּשָׁלָם וְכָל-אַרְמְנוֹתֶיהָ שָׂרְפוּ בָאֵשׁ וְכָל-כְּלֵי מַחֲמַדֶּיהָ לְהַשְׁחִית: **כ** וַיֶּגֶל הַשְּׁאֵרִית מִן-הַחֶרֶב אֶל-בָּבֶל וַיִּהְיוּ-לוֹ וּלְבָנָיו לַעֲבָדִים עַד-מְלֹךְ מַלְכוּת פָּרָס: **כא** לְמַלֹּאות דְּבַר-ה’ בְּפִי יִרְמְיָהוּ עַד-רָצְתָה הָאָרֶץ אֶת-שַׁבְּתוֹתֶיהָ כָּל-יְמֵי הָשַּׁמָּה שָׁבָתָה לְמַלֹּאות שִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה: **כב** וּבִשְׁנַת אַחַת לְכוֹרֶשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס לִכְלוֹת דְּבַר-ה’ בְּפִי יִרְמְיָהוּ הֵעִיר ה’ אֶת-רוּחַ כּוֹרֶשׁ מֶלֶךְ-פָּרַס וַיַּעֲבֶר-קוֹל בְּכָל-מַלְכוּתוֹ וְגַם-בְּמִכְתָּב לֵאמֹר: **כג** כֹּה-אָמַר כּוֹרֶשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס כָּל-מַמְלְכוֹת הָאָרֶץ נָתַן לִי ה’ אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהוּא-פָקַד עָלַי לִבְנוֹת-לוֹ בַיִת בִּירוּשָׁלַם אֲשֶׁר בִּיהוּדָה מִי-בָכֶם מִכָּל-עַמּוֹ ה’ אֱלֹהָיו עִמּוֹ וְיָעַל:

**17** Therefore He brought upon them the king of the Chaldeans, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man or hoary-headed; He gave them all into his hand. **18** And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. **19** And they burnt the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. **20** And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia; **21** to fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had been paid her sabbaths; for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years. **{S}** **22** Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying: **{S}** **23** 'Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD, the God of heaven, given me; and He hath charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whosoever there is among you of all His people--the LORD his God be with him--let him go up.' **{P}**

**2. Ezra1**

**א** וּבִשְׁנַת אַחַת לְכוֹרֶשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס לִכְלוֹת דְּבַר-ה’ מִפִּי יִרְמְיָה הֵעִיר ה’ אֶת-רוּחַ כֹּרֶשׁ מֶלֶךְ-פָּרַס וַיַּעֲבֶר-קוֹל בְּכָל-מַלְכוּתוֹ וְגַם-בְּמִכְתָּב לֵאמֹר: **ב** כֹּה אָמַר כֹּרֶשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס כֹּל מַמְלְכוֹת הָאָרֶץ נָתַן לִי ה’ אֱ-לֹהֵי הַשָּׁמָיִם וְהוּא-פָקַד עָלַי לִבְנוֹת-לוֹ בַיִת בִּירוּשָׁלַם אֲשֶׁר בִּיהוּדָה: **ג** מִי-בָכֶם מִכָּל-עַמּוֹ יְהִי אֱ-לֹהָיו עִמּוֹ וְיַעַל לִירוּשָׁלַם אֲשֶׁר בִּיהוּדָה וְיִבֶן אֶת-בֵּית ה’ אֱ-לֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הוּא הָאֱ-לֹהִים אֲשֶׁר בִּירוּשָׁלָם: **ד** וְכָל-הַנִּשְׁאָר מִכָּל-הַמְּקֹמוֹת אֲשֶׁר הוּא גָר-שָׁם יְנַשְּׂאוּהוּ אַנְשֵׁי מְקֹמוֹ בְּכֶסֶף וּבְזָהָב וּבִרְכוּשׁ וּבִבְהֵמָה עִם-הַנְּדָבָה לְבֵית הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר בִּירוּשָׁלָם: **ה** וַיָּקוּמוּ רָאשֵׁי הָאָבוֹת לִיהוּדָה וּבִנְיָמִן וְהַכֹּהֲנִים וְהַלְוִיִּם לְכֹל הֵעִיר הָאֱ-לֹהִים אֶת-רוּחוֹ לַעֲלוֹת לִבְנוֹת אֶת-בֵּית ה’ אֲשֶׁר בִּירוּשָׁלָם: **ו** וְכָל-סְבִיבֹתֵיהֶם חִזְּקוּ בִידֵיהֶם בִּכְלֵי-כֶסֶף בַּזָּהָב בָּרְכוּשׁ וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבַמִּגְדָּנוֹת לְבַד עַל-כָּל-הִתְנַדֵּב: **ז** וְהַמֶּלֶךְ כּוֹרֶשׁ הוֹצִיא אֶת-כְּלֵי בֵית-ה’ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצִיא נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר מִירוּשָׁלַם וַיִּתְּנֵם בְּבֵית אֱלֹהָיו: **ח** וַיּוֹצִיאֵם כּוֹרֶשׁ מֶלֶךְ פָּרַס עַל-יַד מִתְרְדָת הַגִּזְבָּר וַיִּסְפְּרֵם לְשֵׁשְׁבַּצַּר הַנָּשִׂיא לִיהוּדָה: **ט** וְאֵלֶּה מִסְפָּרָם אֲגַרְטְלֵי זָהָב שְׁלֹשִׁים אֲגַרְטְלֵי-כֶסֶף אָלֶף מַחֲלָפִים תִּשְׁעָה וְעֶשְׂרִים: **י** כְּפוֹרֵי זָהָב שְׁלֹשִׁים כְּפוֹרֵי כֶסֶף מִשְׁנִים אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת וַעֲשָׂרָה כֵּלִים אֲחֵרִים אָלֶף: **יא** כָּל-כֵּלִים לַזָּהָב וְלַכֶּסֶף חֲמֵשֶׁת אֲלָפִים וְאַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת הַכֹּל הֶעֱלָה שֵׁשְׁבַּצַּר עִם הֵעָלוֹת הַגּוֹלָה מִבָּבֶל לִירוּשָׁלָם:

 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying: **2** 'Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD, the God of heaven, given me; and He hath charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. **3** Whosoever there is among you of all His people--his God be with him--let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD, the God of Israel, He is the God who is in Jerusalem. **4** And whosoever is left, in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill-offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.' **5** Then rose up the heads of fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, even all whose spirit God had stirred to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. **6** And all they that were round about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered. **{S}** **7** Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods; **8** even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. **9** And this is the number of them: thirty basins of gold, a thousand basins of silver, nine and twenty knives; **{S}** **10** thirty bowls of gold, **{S}** silver bowls of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand. **{S}** **11** All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up, when they of the captivity were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem. **{P}**

**3. Jeremiah 25**

**ח** לָכֵן כֹּה אָמַר ה’ צְבָאוֹת יַעַן אֲשֶׁר לֹא-שְׁמַעְתֶּם אֶת-דְּבָרָי: **ט** הִנְנִי שֹׁלֵחַ וְלָקַחְתִּי- אֶת-כָּל-מִשְׁפְּחוֹת צָפוֹן נְאֻם-ה’ וְאֶל-נְבוּכַדְרֶאצַּר מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל עַבְדִּי וַהֲבִאֹתִים עַל-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וְעַל-ישְׁבֶיהָ וְעַל כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם הָאֵלֶּה סָבִיב וְהַחֲרַמְתִּים וְשַׂמְתִּים לְשַׁמָּה וְלִשְׁרֵקָה וּלְחָרְבוֹת עוֹלָם: **י** וְהַאֲבַדְתִּי מֵהֶם קוֹל שָׂשׂוֹן וְקוֹל שִׂמְחָה קוֹל חָתָן וְקוֹל כַּלָּה קוֹל רֵחַיִם וְאוֹר נֵר: **יא** וְהָיְתָה כָּל-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְחָרְבָּה לְשַׁמָּה וְעָבְדוּ הַגּוֹיִם הָאֵלֶּה אֶת-מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל שִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה: **יב** וְהָיָה כִמְלֹאות שִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה אֶפְקֹד עַל-מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל- וְעַל-הַגּוֹי הַהוּא נְאֻם-ה’ אֶת-עֲוֹנָם וְעַל-אֶרֶץ כַּשְׂדִּים וְשַׂמְתִּי אֹתוֹ לְשִׁמְמוֹת עוֹלָם: **יג** (וְהֵבֵאותִי) [וְהֵבֵאתִי] עַל-הָאָרֶץ הַהִיא אֶת-כָּל-דְּבָרַי אֲשֶׁר-דִּבַּרְתִּי עָלֶיהָ אֵת כָּל-הַכָּתוּב בַּסֵּפֶר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר-נִבָּא יִרְמְיָהוּ עַל-כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם: **יד** כִּי עָבְדוּ-בָם גַּם-הֵמָּה גּוֹיִם רַבִּים וּמְלָכִים גְּדוֹלִים וְשִׁלַּמְתִּי לָהֶם כְּפָעֳלָם וּכְמַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם:

**8** Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts: Because ye have not heard My words, **9** behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and I will send unto Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about; and I will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and a hissing, and perpetual desolations. **10** Moreover I will cause to cease from among them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the lamp. **11** And this whole land shall be a desolation, and a waste; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. **12** And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it perpetual desolations. **13** And I will bring upon that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations. **14** For many nations and great kings shall make bondmen of them also; and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the work of their own hands. **{P}**

**4. Baba batra 15a**

Ezra wrote the book that bears his name[8](http://www.come-and-hear.com/bababathra/bababathra_15.html#15a_8)  and the genealogies of the Book of Chronicles up to his own time. This confirms the opinion of Rab, since Rab Judah has said in the name of Rab: Ezra did not leave Babylon to go up to Eretz Yisrael until he had written his own genealogy. Who then finished it [the Book of Chronicles]? — Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.

**5. RAmban shemot 1:2**

וכענין הזה בספר דברי הימים וספר עזרא, שהשלים דברי הימים, ובשנת אחת לכורש מלך פרס לכלות דבר ה' בפי ירמיהו העיר ה' את רוח כורש וגו', כה אמר כורש מלך פרס וגו', ואותם שני פסוקים בלשונם החזיר בראש ספר עזרא לחבר הספור, אלא שהיו שני ספרים, השלים הראשון במה שהיה קודם בנין הבית והספר השני מעת הבנין. וכן הדבר בשני הספרים האלה בראשית ואלה שמות:

**6. ישעיה מה**

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| **א** כֹּה-אָמַר ה’ לִמְשִׁיחוֹ לְכוֹרֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר-הֶחֱזַקְתִּי בִימִינוֹ לְרַד-לְפָנָיו גּוֹיִם וּמָתְנֵי מְלָכִים אֲפַתֵּחַ לִפְתֹּחַ לְפָנָיו דְּלָתַיִם וּשְׁעָרִים לֹא יִסָּגֵרוּ: **ב** אֲנִי לְפָנֶיךָ אֵלֵךְ וַהֲדוּרִים (אֲוַשֵּׁר) [אֲיַשֵּׁר] דַּלְתוֹת נְחוּשָׁה אֲשַׁבֵּר וּבְרִיחֵי בַרְזֶל אֲגַדֵּעַ: **ג** וְנָתַתִּי לְךָ אוֹצְרוֹת חֹשֶׁךְ וּמַטְמֻנֵי מִסְתָּרִים לְמַעַן תֵּדַע כִּי אֲנִי ה’ הַקּוֹרֵא בְשִׁמְךָ אֱ-לֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: **ד** לְמַעַן עַבְדִּי יַעֲקֹב וְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּחִירִי וָאֶקְרָא לְךָ בִּשְׁמֶךָ אֲכַנְּךָ וְלֹא יְדַעְתָּנִי: **ה** אֲנִי ה’ וְאֵין עוֹד זוּלָתִי אֵין אֱלֹהִים אֲאַזֶּרְךָ וְלֹא יְדַעְתָּנִי: **ו** לְמַעַן יֵדְעוּ מִמִּזְרַח-שֶׁמֶשׁ וּמִמַּעֲרָבָה כִּי-אֶפֶס בִּלְעָדָי אֲנִי ה’ וְאֵין עוֹד: **ז** יוֹצֵר אוֹר וּבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְ עֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם וּבוֹרֵא רָע אֲנִי ה’ עֹשֶׂה כָל-אֵלֶּה:  | Thus saith the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him, and to loose the loins of kings; to open the doors before him, and that the gates may not be shut: **2** I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the doors of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron; **3** And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I am the LORD, who call thee by thy name, even the God of Israel. **4** For the sake of Jacob My servant, and Israel Mine elect, I have called thee by thy name, I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known Me. **5** I am the LORD, and there is none else, beside Me there is no God; I have girded thee, though thou hast not known Me; **6** That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside Me; I am the LORD; and there is none else; **7** I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil; I am the LORD, that doeth all these things. |

**7. ישעיה מ"ד, כח**

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| הָאֹמֵר לְכוֹרֶשׁ רֹעִי וְכָל-חֶפְצִי יַשְׁלִם וְלֵאמֹר לִירוּשָׁלַם תִּבָּנֶה וְהֵיכָל תִּוָּסֵד: | That saith of Cyrus: 'He is My shepherd, and shall perform all My pleasure'; even saying of Jerusalem: 'She shall be built'; and to the temple: 'My foundation shall be laid.' |

**8. ראב"ע, עזרא א**

**לכורש -יש אומרים:** שהמלה נהפכת מן וכשר הדבר כי כבר כנהו בשמו הנביא ישעיהו על הכשרון שיעשה עם ישראל, וזהו שאמר:**הוא יבנה עירי וגלותי ישלח.**

**9. אסתר ח, ח**

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| וְאַתֶּם כִּתְבוּ עַל-הַיְּהוּדִים כַּטּוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם בְּשֵׁם הַמֶּלֶךְ וְחִתְמוּ בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי-כְתָב אֲשֶׁר-נִכְתָּב בְּשֵׁם-הַמֶּלֶךְ וְנַחְתּוֹם בְּטַבַּעַת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֵין לְהָשִׁיב |  Write ye also concerning the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring; for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse. |

**10. יומא ט:-י.**

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| מיה דרבי יוחנן א"ל לאו היינו טעמא א"נ סליקו כולהו בימי עזרא לא הוה שריא שכינה במקדש שני דכתיב (בראשית ט, כז) יפת אלהים ליפת וישכן באהלי שם אף על גב דיפת אלהים ליפת אין השכינה שורה אלא באהלי שם  | although HaSh-m will grant beauty to Yefes [by allowing him - through his descendants the Persians - to build the second Beis ha'Mikdash] The presence of HaSh-m will dwell only in the tents [built by the descendants] of Shem (i.e., the first Beis ha'Mikdash, built by the Jews]  "And the sons of Yefes were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Yavan, Suval, Meshech, and Siras." (Bereishis 10:2) |

**11. Berachot 4a**

עד יעבור עמך ה' זו ביאה ראשונה, עד יעבור עם זו קנית זו ביאה שניה, מכאן אמרו חכמים ראוים היו ישראל ליעשות להם נס בימי עזרא כדרך שנעשה להם בימי יהושע בן נון, אלא שגרם החטא.

**12. Divrei hayamim 2:25**

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| **14** Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and prostrated himself before them, and offered unto them. **15** Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and He sent unto him a prophet, who said unto him: 'Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which have not delivered their own people out of thy hand?'  | **יד** וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי בוֹא אֲמַצְיָהוּ מֵהַכּוֹת אֶת-אֲדוֹמִים וַיָּבֵא אֶת-אֱלֹהֵי בְּנֵי שֵׂעִיר וַיַּעֲמִידֵם לוֹ לֵאלֹהִים וְלִפְנֵיהֶם יִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה וְלָהֶם יְקַטֵּר: **טו** וַיִּחַר-אַף ה’ בַּאֲמַצְיָהוּ וַיִּשְׁלַח אֵלָיו נָבִיא וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לָמָּה דָרַשְׁתָּ אֶת-אֱלֹהֵי הָעָם אֲשֶׁר לֹא-הִצִּילוּ אֶת-עַמָּם מִיָּדֶךָ:  |

**13. Ezra 6**

**א** בֵּאדַיִן דָּרְיָוֶשׁ מַלְכָּא שָׂם טְעֵם וּבַקַּרוּ בְּבֵית סִפְרַיָּא דִּי גִנְזַיָּא מְהַחֲתִין תַּמָּה בְּבָבֶל: **ב** וְהִשְׁתְּכַח בְּאַחְמְתָא בְּבִירְתָא דִּי בְּמָדַי מְדִינְתָּא מְגִלָּה חֲדָה וְכֵן-כְּתִיב בְּגַוַּהּ דִּכְרוֹנָה: **ג** בִּשְׁנַת חֲדָה לְכוֹרֶשׁ מַלְכָּא כּוֹרֶשׁ מַלְכָּא שָׂם טְעֵם בֵּית-אֱלָהָא בִירוּשְׁלֶם בַּיְתָא יִתְבְּנֵא אֲתַר דִּי-דָבְחִין דִּבְחִין וְאֻשּׁוֹהִי מְסוֹבְלִין רוּמֵהּ אַמִּין שִׁתִּין פְּתָיֵהּ אַמִּין שִׁתִּין: **ד** נִדְבָּכִין דִּי-אֶבֶן גְּלָל תְּלָתָא וְנִדְבָּךְ דִּי-אָע חֲדַת וְנִפְקְתָא מִן-בֵּית מַלְכָּא תִּתְיְהִב: **ה** וְאַף מָאנֵי בֵית-אֱלָהָא דִּי דַהֲבָה וְכַסְפָּא דִּי נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר הַנְפֵּק מִן-הֵיכְלָא דִי-בִירוּשְׁלֶם וְהֵיבֵל לְבָבֶל יַהֲתִיבוּן וִיהַךְ לְהֵיכְלָא דִי-בִירוּשְׁלֶם לְאַתְרֵהּ וְתַחֵת בְּבֵית אֱלָהָא: **ו** כְּעַן תַּתְּנַי פַּחַת עֲבַר-נַהֲרָה שְׁתַר בּוֹזְנַי וּכְנָוָתְהוֹן אֲפַרְסְכָיֵא דִּי בַּעֲבַר נַהֲרָה רַחִיקִין הֲווֹ מִן-תַּמָּה: **ז** שְׁבֻקוּ לַעֲבִידַת בֵּית-אֱלָהָא דֵךְ פַּחַת יְהוּדָיֵא וּלְשָׂבֵי יְהוּדָיֵא בֵּית-אֱלָהָא דֵךְ יִבְנוֹן עַל-אַתְרֵהּ: **ח** וּמִנִּי שִׂים טְעֵם לְמָא דִי-תַעַבְדוּן עִם-שָׂבֵי יְהוּדָיֵא אִלֵּךְ לְמִבְנֵא בֵּית-אֱלָהָא דֵךְ וּמִנִּכְסֵי מַלְכָּא דִּי מִדַּת עֲבַר נַהֲרָה אָסְפַּרְנָא נִפְקְתָא תֶּהֱוֵא מִתְיַהֲבָא לְגֻבְרַיָּא אִלֵּךְ דִּי-לָא לְבַטָּלָא: **ט** וּמָה חַשְׁחָן וּבְנֵי תוֹרִין וְדִכְרִין וְאִמְּרִין לַעֲלָוָן לֶאֱלָהּ שְׁמַיָּ-א חִנְטִין מְלַח חֲמַר וּמְשַׁח כְּמֵאמַר כָּהֲנַיָּא דִי-בִירוּשְׁלֶם לֶהֱוֵא מִתְיְהֵב לְהֹם יוֹם בְּיוֹם דִּי-לָא שָׁלוּ: **י** דִּי-לֶהֱוֹן מְהַקְרְבִין נִיחוֹחִין לֶאֱלָהּ שְׁמַיָּא וּמְצַלַּיִן לְחַיֵּי מַלְכָּא וּבְנוֹהִי: **יא** וּמִנִּי שִׂים טְעֵם דִּי כָל-אֱנָשׁ דִּי יְהַשְׁנֵא פִּתְגָּמָא דְנָה יִתְנְסַח אָע מִן-בַּיְתֵהּ וּזְקִיף יִתְמְחֵא עֲלֹהִי וּבַיְתֵהּ נְוָלוּ יִתְעֲבֵד עַל-דְּנָה:

Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the archives, where the treasures were laid up, in Babylon. **2** And there was found at Ahmetha, in the palace that is in the province of Media, a roll, and therein was thus written: 'A record. **{P}**

**3** In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king made a decree: Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be builded, the place where they offer sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits; **4** with three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber, and let the expenses be given out of the king's house; **5**and also let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought back unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to its place, and thou shalt put them in the house of God.' **{S}** **6** 'Now therefore, Tattenai, governor beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and your companions the Apharesachites, who are beyond the River, be ye far from thence; **7** let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in its place. **8**Moreover I make a decree concerning what ye shall do to these elders of the Jews for the building of this house of God; that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the River, expenses be given with all diligence unto these men, that they be not hindered. **9** And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for burnt-offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the word of the priests that are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail; **10** that they may offer sacrifices of sweet savour unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons. **11** Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let a beam be pulled out from his house, and let him be lifted up and fastened thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this; **12** and may the God that hath caused His name to dwell there overthrow all kings and peoples, that shall put forth their hand to alter the same, to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with all diligence.' **{P}**

**14. Rosh hashana 3b:**

R. Abbahu replied: Cyrus was a worthy king, and therefore they reckoned his years like those of the kings of Israel. R. Joseph demurred strongly against this….The one verse speaks of him before he degenerated, the other after he degenerated.

**15. Cyrus cylinder**

I am Cyrus, king of the universe, the great king, the powerful king, king of Babylon, king of Sumer and Akkad, king of the four quarters of the world, son of Cambyses, the great king,, king of the city of Anshan, grandson of Cyrus, the great king, ki[ng of the ci]ty of Anshan, descendant of Teispes, the great king, king of Anshan, the perpetual seed of kingship, whose reign Bel and Nabu love, and with whose kingship, to their joy, they concern themselves.

When I went as harbinger of peace i[nt]o Babylon I founded my sovereign residence within the royal palace amid celebration and rejoicing. Marduk, the great lord, bestowed on me as my destiny the great magnanimity of one who loves Babylon, and I every day sought him out in awe. My vast troops marched peaceably in Babylon, and the whole of [Sumer] and Akkad had nothing to fear. I sought the welfare of the city of Babylon and all its sanctuaries. As for the population of Babylon […, w]ho as if without div[ine intention] had endured a yoke not decreed for them, I soothed their weariness, I freed them from their bonds(?). Marduk, the great lord, rejoiced at [my good] deeds, and he pronounced a sweet blessing over me, Cyrus, the king who fears him, and over Cambyses, the son [my] issue, [and over] my all my troops, that we might proceed further at his exalted [command]. All kings who sit on thrones, from every quarter, from the Upper Sea to the Lower Sea, those who inhabit [remote distric]ts (and) the kings of the land of Amurru who live in tents, all of them, brought their weighty tribute into Shuanna, and kissed my feet. From [Shuanna] I sent back to their places to the city of Ashur and Susa, Akkad, the land of Eshnunna, the city of Zamban, the city of Meturnu, Der, as far as the border of the land of Qutu – the sanctuaries across the river Tigris – whose shrines had earlier become dilapidated, the gods who lived therein, and made permanent sanctuaries for them. I collected together all of their people and returned them to their settlements, and the gods of the land of Sumer and Akkad which Nabonidus – to the fury of the lord of the gods – had brought into Shuanna, at the command of Marduk, the great lord, I returned them unharmed to their cells, in the sanctuaries that make them happy. May all the gods that I returned to their sanctuaries, every day before Marduk and Nabu, ask for a long life for me, and mention my good deeds

**16. Josepus**

1. IN the first year of the reign of Cyrus which was the seventieth from the day that our people were removed out of their own land into Babylon, God commiserated the captivity and calamity of these poor people, according as he had foretold to them by Jeremiah the prophet, before the destruction of the city, that after they had served Nebuchadnezzar and his posterity, and after they had undergone that servitude seventy years, he would restore them again to the land of their fathers, and they should build their temple, and enjoy their ancient prosperity. And these things God did afford them; for he stirred up the mind of Cyrus, and made him write this throughout all Asia: "Thus saith Cyrus the king: Since God Almighty hath appointed me to be king of the habitable earth, I believe that he is that God which the nation of the Israelites worship; for indeed he foretold my name by the prophets, and that I should build him a house at Jerusalem, in the country of Judea."

2. This was known to Cyrus by his reading the book which Isaiah left behind him of his prophecies; for this prophet said that God had spoken thus to him in a secret vision: "My will is, that Cyrus, whom I have appointed to be king over many and great nations, send back my people to their own land, and build my temple." This was foretold by Isaiah one hundred and forty years before the temple was demolished. Accordingly, when Cyrus read this, and admired the Divine power, an earnest desire and ambition seized upon him to fulfill what was so written; so he called for the most eminent Jews that were in Babylon, and said to them, that he gave them leave to go back to their own country, and to rebuild their city Jerusalem,[342](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/josephus/complete.ii.xii.i.html#fnf_ii.xii.i-p3.1) and the temple of God, for that he would be their assistant, and that he would write to the rulers and governors that were in the neighborhood of their country of Judea, that they should contribute to them gold and silver for the building of the temple, and besides that, beasts for their sacrifices.

3. When Cyrus had said this to the Israelites, the rulers of the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin, with the Levites and priests, went in haste to Jerusalem; yet did many of them stay at Babylon, as not willing to leave their possessions; and when they were come thither, all the king's friends assisted them, and brought in, for the building of the temple, some gold, and some silver, and some a great many cattle and horses. So they performed their vows to God, and offered the sacrifices that had been accustomed of old time; I mean this upon the rebuilding of their city, and the revival of the ancient practices relating to their worship. Cyrus also sent back to them the vessels of God which king Nebuchadnezzar had pillaged out of the temple, and had carried to Babylon. So he committed these things to Mithridates, the treasurer, to be sent away, with an order to give them to Sanabassar, that he might keep them till the temple was built; and when it was finished, he might deliver them to the priests and rulers of the multitude, in order to their being restored to the temple. Cyrus also sent an epistle to the governors that were in Syria, the contents whereof here follow:

**“KING CYRUS TO SISINNES AND SATHRABUZANES SENDETH GREETING.**

"I have given leave to as many of the Jews that dwell in my country as please to return to their own country, and to rebuild their city, and to build the temple of God at Jerusalem on the same place where it was before. I have also sent my treasurer Mithridates, and Zorobabel, the governor of the Jews, that they may lay the foundations of the temple, and may build it sixty cubits high, and of the same latitude, making three edifices of polished stones, and one of the wood of the country, and the same order extends to the altar whereon they offer sacrifices to God. I require also that the expenses for these things may be given out of my revenues. Moreover, I have also sent the vessels which king Nebuchadnezzar pillaged out of the temple, and have given them to Mithridates the treasurer, and to Zorobabel the governor of the Jews, that they may have them carried to Jerusalem, and may restore them to the temple of God. Now their number is as follows: Fifty chargers of gold, and five hundred of silver; forty Thericlean cups of gold, and five hundred of silver; fifty basons of gold, and five hundred of silver; thirty vessels for pouring [the drink-offerings], and three hundred of silver; thirty vials of gold, and two thousand four hundred of silver; with a thousand other large vessels. I permit them to have the same honor which they were used to have from their forefathers, as also for their small cattle, and for wine and oil, two hundred and five thousand and five hundred drachme; and for wheat flour, twenty thousand and five hundred artabae; and I give order that these expenses shall be given them out of the tributes due from Samaria. The priests shall also offer these sacrifices according to the laws of Moses in Jerusalem; and when they offer them, they shall pray to God for the preservation of the king and of his family, that the kingdom of Persia may continue. But my will is, that those who disobey these injunctions, and make them void, shall be hung upon a cross, and their substance brought into the king's treasury." And such was the import of this epistle. Now the number of those that came out of captivity to Jerusalem, were forty-two thousand four hundred and sixty-two

**17.** Foreign Office

November 2nd, 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you. on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours,

Arthur James Balfour

